

The Charter Times

Princeton Charter School

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Contributors: Luca Balescu, Rachael Dewey, Brandon Feder, Anlin Kopf, Jennifer Ren, Lucia Shen, Jessica Wu, Audrey You, Alex Zhang



School News

The Charter Lottery

Brandon Feder

How it works:

First all applicants are assigned a code. All the codes start with P, for Princeton, and then contain the year. Then depending on applicants' grades, they are assigned a grade from K through eight. Then each student gets a number starting at 1, and going up to the amount of people in raffle. For example an applicant for kindergarten next year might be P17k01. This code is then printed out on a sheet of paper. Each piece of paper is folded up and put into an Easter egg, which is color coded by grade. When the lottery is held, the eggs are tumbled in a large tumbler before Mr Patten takes out an egg, unfolds the paper, and reads the code. Three people write the code down on a form while a fourth writes it on a large poster board for everyone to see.

Economically disadvantaged children:

As you may know this was the first year that economically disadvantaged children got an extra paper in the raffle. In other words they got twice the chance to join the school. This year there were 19 economically disadvantaged children, ten of whom were selected in the lottery.

Take Your Child to Work Day

Jessica Wu

Thursday, April 27 was Take Your Child To Work Day. On that day, children went to their parents' workplaces for a day. Many of PCS's students participated in this event. In fact, about a fourth of the 5-8 building was reported absent.

Take Your Child To Work Day is important because it shows growing students what the outside world is like. They can get a glimpse of what goes on in their parents' lives on a daily basis, and it can prepare them for future jobs. For this article, students who participated in Bring Your Child To Work Day were asked to share their experiences.

Dhruv Pai: For Take Your Child To Work Day, my father took me to the Google office in NYC. I did a lot of exciting things on their Take-Your-Child-To-Work-Day tour. First, I learned the basics of programming in Python. Then I had the chance to experience virtual reality using Google Cardboard glasses. Next, I went inside Google's

Statistics for this year:

This year was record breaking in terms of number of applicants. There were 58 more students total than in previous years. Overall there were 320 applicants. This was also a record breaking year because there are 95 spots available, the most ever in Charter history. This allows for more students who are not siblings of current PCS students (who are given preference) to get in.

Spring Sports

Anlin Kopf

Though the school year is almost done and Summer is almost here, students at PCS can still play sports for school during Spring. This year, we had a lacrosse team and an ultimate frisbee club.

First, lacrosse was coached by Mr. Burt and Mr. Johnson. This year's team was huge with around 25 students, about half of them being new. Despite this, the team had a great season. During practices, the team usually split up into two groups: the younger girls practiced with Mr. Burt while the older, more experienced students practiced with Mr. Johnson. There was a varsity team, which everyone was part of, and a junior varsity team, which only the less experienced girls were part of. The team won 9 out of 11 games, even beating the Stuart School for the first time in years! Both teams did very well and had lots of fun.

In addition, this year Charter had an ultimate frisbee club. This is a club because, unlike the other sports at school, the ultimate frisbee players do not play against other schools. They get together on certain days and split up into two teams to scrimmage. Organized by Mr. Papp for students in the 5-8 building, there were around twelve people, and they had lots of fun.

(continued from 2nd column, page 1)
YouTube studio, where Youtubers with over 10,000 subscribers are allowed to make videos. After that, I designed my own circuit using a set of provided instructions. I had a great time at my father's workplace and I'm grateful that he took me there.

Richard Wegman: My mother took me to Princeton University, where she was giving a seminar on the German language. I listened to the seminar and also contributed to it. At the end, I took a German vocabulary quiz that the other students were also taking. I got a 100.

Brandon Feder: My dad took me to Princeton Plasma Physics Lab. I was only there for the first half of the day, but while I was there, someone was showing us some cool experiments. Some of the experiments included putting balloons filled with helium in liquid nitrogen and making ice cream using liquid nitrogen. There were also cool things like a plasma speaker and tesla coils. I had a lot of fun!

Anonymous: One of my parents works for the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University. For Bring Your Child To Work Day, we went into labs. First, we had a presentation where we saw the different anatomy of different animals. Then, we examined a cow's heart. We saw the blood chambers and veins, and we learned about how blood flows. We also looked at a lamb's brain and compared it to the sizes of other animals' brains, like a dog or a cat. After that we went on a nature walk around the university

It is near the end of the year and spring sports are ending, but everybody worked hard and had a lot of fun. There were many eighth graders on the teams that will be leaving Charter soon, but there will be many students playing again next year, plus some new ones! Great job to everyone!

(continued from 2nd column, page 2)
campus and saw different types of plants, like skunk cabbages. Finally we went back inside and made ice cream using a chemical reaction. It was pretty fun!

Opinions

Advice Column

You

Dear Abby,

I'm trying to get good at lacrosse, and I'm practicing every day. But I don't do that well in games. What do I do?

Sincerely, Anonymous

Dear Practicing Patiently,

I'm sorry to hear that you are unconfident or unhappy with your performance in lacrosse games, and I am impressed that you had the courage to raise this issue.

If you mean that you are embarrassed because you often lose possession of the ball and get tired when everyone else doesn't seem to, then you shouldn't feel so bad about it. This is a mental experience as well as physical exercise, and don't get upset at yourself for having difficulty running all the time in the heat or cold or for not controlling the ball perfectly because, chances are that a lot of players have the same issue. It takes time to build up your skill and stamina, and it is best to be patient with yourself as a developing player.

If you are upset with yourself for making mistakes during the game, especially in front of your teammates, remember to have the

Audrey

Washington, D. C.

Jennifer

Ren

Every year, the eighth graders of PCS get to go on a special, overnight field trip to Washington, D.C. This year, we went at the right time: cherry blossom season. When the cherry blossom trees are combined with the magnificent monuments, in the city, the most amazing views are seen.

When we first arrived, we got to explore the Newseum, an interactive exhibit that allows people to experience the stories from the past and now. We also went to eat at the sculpture garden, a beautiful garden with many flowers, trees, shrubs, and most importantly, works of art. The most unique and amazing part of the trip was meeting Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and touring the Supreme Court. It was a great honor for all of us to actually meet a Supreme Court Justice and ask him questions because of his busy schedule. Next, we went to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum which holds the largest collection of historic aircraft and spacecraft in the world.

courage to continue playing and enjoy the sport, and live outside of your blunder.

Encouraging yourself is also a skill you could develop. After all, everyone makes mistakes. If you understand what you did wrong and your mistake is a weakness in your performance, it could help to constructively work on your problem, like passing or getting in the right positions during the game.

I hope you can enjoy the experience of playing with the other players, and chances are, if you are tired or slow from heat, running, and holding lacrosse sticks, they are too. Don't put pressure on yourself over the way you could have played in the game. Instead, focus on doing the best you can. Overall, if you try your best and keep working on your goals in the sport, your coach will be able to see that.

Sincerely,
Abby

Dear Abby,

Do you have any suggestions for some grammar tips? Thanks.

Sincerely, Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Thank you so much for asking! Your English teacher can probably help you more than I can, but here are some tips for your grammar you may not have heard of yet:

- 1) To determine whether a sentence needs a comma after a coordinating conjunction, look at both sides of the conjunction and make sure they are independent clauses. If they are independent, include a comma before the coordinating conjunction, and omit the comma without if they aren't.

(continued from 2nd column, page 3)

At night, we went on a night view monument tour, where we saw the Vietnam War Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial. From the Lincoln Memorial, we were able to see the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. The view was truly magnificent and many hope to never forget it.

The biggest event of the trip was the wreath laying ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery. This ceremony is a recognizes the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a monument dedicated to American service members who have died without their remains being identified. Three people from our class presented a wreath representing our school.

We also visited the Martin Luther King Jr. and Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorials, two very unique and special memorials. The MLK Memorial is composed of a giant slab of stone with Martin Luther King Jr. carved in it, as if he was coming out of the stone, and many of his quotations. The FDR Memorial represents President Roosevelt's career in four sections, one for each of his terms as president. Each room, or term, contains a waterfall. For example, in the third room, the chaotic waterfalls at different angles represent World War II, and the still pool in the last room symbolizes Roosevelt's death.

The most amazing museum that we went to was the National Museum of

FANBOYS is a common acronym for remembering the coordinating conjunctions: **for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so.**

- 2) Make sure your subject and verb agree in terms of being plural/singular:
 - “One of the students is walking to the library.”
- 3) Make sure your pronoun and antecedent agree in terms of being plural/singular. For example, “Max’s pet lizard was energetic, and it loved to dart under leaves and logs.”
- 4) Watch that your sentences are structured correctly and use as few words as possible to communicate the message to the reader.
- 5) **It’s** means it is, and be careful not to confuse it with **its**.
 - **It’s** (it is) a great day to have a picnic.
 - After a few years, the rusting metal lost **its** lustrous shine.
- 6) Remember **they’re**, **their**, and **there** are different words: **They’re** is a contraction of **they** and **are**. **Their** indicates possession as in “their ball” or the ball that belongs to them. **There** means a place.
 - **They’re** (they are) a spectacular group of actors.
 - **Their** lunches are carefully packed in brown paper bags
 - **There** is a pool at the urban middle school.

African American History and Culture. The NMAAHC is the only nation (continued from 2nd column, page 4) museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. The building, itself, symbolizes a lot. The architecture follows classical Greco-Roman form in its use of a base and shaft, topped by a capital or corona. Also the bronze-colored metal lattice that wraps the entire building references the intricate ironwork that was crafted by enslaved African Americans in Louisiana, South Carolina, and elsewhere.

Overall, students overwhelmingly consider the Washington, D.C. trip an amazing and unforgettable experience. As the longest and most meaningful trip at Princeton Charter School, it is the trip everyone looked forward to and was thrilled to have taken.





Entertainment

Newspaper Club

Lucia Shen

Our first newspaper club meeting this year was in the Charter room. All the tables except for one were already folded up and against the wall. A flood of students flowed out of the main entrance just past the lunch room, and a handful trickled into the room. They stayed, and they took part in creating of the newspaper this piece is in.

We started from scratch. First thing's first: get a name. Classy and catchy, that was the idea. The Charter Times came into the conversation, and it was deemed, "okay," though not a name sent from the heavens. We just needed a name to center ourselves so we could focus on what went into The Charter Times. Well, news of course. Sports was for sure early on. Classroom news as well. Dear Abby, what else? Soon enough we were deciding who was going to take on which topic.

It was the devotion and hard work of the members that created the actual substance for The Charter Times. We were emailing teachers, interviewing students, spending so much time on something despite all the homework Charter assigns.

There were not as many people in the club this year compared to last year. We often had to

Nationality Survey Luca Balescu

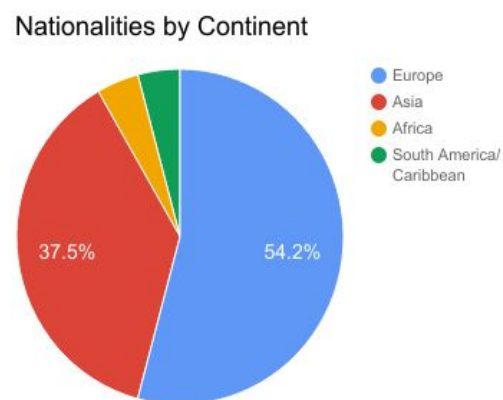
I wanted to see how students at Charter identify their nationality and to make a chart indicating their identities. So I did a survey around the school, and asked a sampling of students a question: "What nationality would you consider your family?" Some students answered American, because their families live here in the United States. However, since I was trying to figure out not where they live, but where they are from, I asked them to identify their nationalities of origin. For example, my family lives here, but we are Romanian. A few other kids students couldn't answer because they said that they were "too mixed." If a students felt that they were half and half, I just asked them to pick a nationality. Some of the countries they were from were in the same parts of the world, but others were completely different. The results prove how diverse our school is.

take on more than one job, and members were extraordinary in getting everything done. In my opinion, we did awesome in creating our first edition. It was beautiful, seeing so many copies, stacked and ready to distribute. This was the culmination of stubbornness and sheer determination from a few students who were set on publishing a newspaper, I thought. All of it came from meetings that started in a lunchroom when we didn't even have a name.

On one occasion we realized we should have a logo. The small drawing on the top left corner of each cover page is our mascot. All eighth grade members drew a character representing them gathering around a computer screen, and above them hangs a clock. It's an image symbolizing our time at Charter and immortalizing the experiences of students at Charter.

I only just joined newspaper club this year. It's been an experience every Monday afternoon and every article I write. It's been a chance to get a taste, on however small a scale, of journalism and of working on a project three times a year with people who were equally committed. This is the last edition of The Charter Times this year. I hope there will be more in the future.

(continued from 2nd column, p. 6)



More than half the people I asked identified as European. A little more than one third of them identified as Asian. Only a few people identified as something else.

-Comics by Audrey You and Alex Zhang-

